

On-Farm Training Reference



Action	Focus	Comments
Examine 2-3 animals that have distinct differences	Conformation	>Note differences between muscle and fat, specifically looking behind the shoulder, jowl, tail head, and ham seam >Muscle has shape and fat looks round
	Stride Length and Flexibility	>Note differences in stride length and flexibility and establish what is acceptable vs not acceptable
	Underline	>Look for 14 normal appearing teats and check for belly ruptures and other abnormalities
Discuss and Observe Stocking Densities	Overcrowding	>Increased risk for vices >Development and structure can be compromised >Animals cannot be properly evaluated for selection
	Water and Feed Availability	>Is there enough water nipples or bowls? >Is there enough feeder space?
Discuss and Look for Vices	Specific Vices	>Ear biting/necrosis >Flank biting >Swollen ears >Tail biting
Examine Environment	Barn Temperatures, Air Movement, Pig Space, and Flooring Condition	>Examine pigs in pen, their behavior will answer the following questions: Are they piling or spread out? Is it humid? Is it gassy? Are the floors wet or dry? Is there broken slats or sharp edges?
Listen and Observe for Health Concerns	What to Listen and Look for	>Answer the following questions: Do you hear a cough? Are pigs up and drinking water/eating? Are their stools loose, colored, of have a different odor?
Determine Marking Method	Selects vs Culls	>Note and determine what the farm will use to mark selects vs culls so everyone knows the difference
Discuss Time Frame to Evaluate Animals	Size of Order	>Ideal to do selection of animals one week prior to scheduled load >It will be dependent on size of the order >Example: a 50 head order can be done in a shorter time frame than a 2,000 head order >Time frame should be determined by making sure there is appropriate time to complete transfer sheets and receive health papers >Size of order will determine how many personnel are needed to do selection